Dear students of Chapman,

During the Galileo program, every student has been required to attend Community Service. At Community Service it has taught me many things that cannot be forgotten. I went Carlton Primary and I was allocated to work with grade one and two class. Every week I would help the children with their reading. On the first week of Community Service, the teacher told me that most children in the class does not get much opportunity to read at home as their parents may not know the English language very well and could not help their children or the child is not the greatest at reading and they lose confidence so they do not really want to read at home by themselves. I was there to help them gain confidence in their reading and help them with any words they did not understand.

Throughout the 8 weeks there were many high notes and some low points. One low point was on the first week I had to work in the office and stick stickers on their new library books. It was not as exciting as I expected and I did not enjoy it as I really wanted to meet the students I was going to work with for the term. Though during the second week I met the students and two students read to me. Their names were Salah and Yasmine. The boy Salah, he is extremely funny and has a bubbly personality. We were reading a picture book and there was a picture of a girl climbing over a fence and you could see her undies. He was shy and did not want to see it so he covered his eyes then pocked his tongue out and quickly turned the page, he looked really cute when he did that and I realized that each child has their own different unique personality. The next week I had another student and she did not like pigs. So every time she saw a photo of a pig in the book she would quickly turn the page and then I would flip the page back and she would look at me as if committed a crime. It was funny to see how children react to things like that. Every week two students would read to me and I would help them choose another book for them to take home. On the last week of community service the teacher was not there and he students were restless and started throwing things and not listening to the substitute teacher. So I was responsible to tell the students to listen and not muck around in class. A student even asked if I wore bikinis and if iPod headphones are connected to our chest and I just laughed but I thought it was such a strange question to ask a helper but little kids are little kids and they say what they think without thinking what is coming out of their mouths. As I was leaving to go back to school a little girl came up to me and gave me a picture she drew in class. I was blown away by her picture and it really touched me that I would not be seeing them and that they really care about mean that they have enjoyed working with me. I also had the best time working with them. I would have never asked for a better class to work with as they made me learn so many things about myself and about them.

At Community Service the skills I learnt are to be responsible and be a good role model to the younger students and learn to help others and take the responsibility to look after the students and teach them what is required. Also you have to take on the responsibility to arrive at the school on time. I also learnt that each person has their own different way of learning for example I had to work on the floor with a student because I felt she was not comfortable reading at a desk, by doing that it made her more comfortable which enables her to concentrate on her reading more. I also learnt how a class is ran and how the teacher organizes her class and plan what the class is doing.

Community Service has benefitted me in many ways and it has also benefitted the students too. It has benefitted me by letting me learn more about myself and learn what kind of person I am. What I mean by learning more about myself is that I learnt that I can be patient and learn to listen to others. It also made me learn about the types of abilities I am good at such as I am good at working with children and that I can connect and create a conversation with them. Community services has benefitted the students as they can spend one on one time with someone and learn better and understand something better or be able to have a chance to read to someone that can tell them if the words they are saying is right or wrong. Also someone can be there to help them with any work they do not understand which enables then to learn more and let them to be able to understand their work better.

I have not faced a lot of challenges at community service though one time I was unable to attend community service because I had a netball competition so I had to contact the school and let them know that I was not going to go to the school that week.

Community Service plays a role in the concept of good citizenship as we are a community and that we should help those who are in need of our help and because we live in a society we have to learn to understand each other and each other’s personality. We should learn to appreciate each other and give to those who are less fortunate and help those who are in need, whether it is to do with education or daily lives. Community Service is a good way for us to learn those values and it has personally taught me any things that would not be forgotten and I can take aboard the things I have learnt and use it in the future.